Red River War: Expansion & Extinction

Primary Source or Secondary Source Worksheet

Prior to your museum visit ask students to find good definitions of Primary Source and Secondary Source.

During the visit to the museum, ask students to list two items in the People of the Plains exhibit that are primary sources and two objects that are secondary sources. If students brought their vocabulary list, they can use it to write on.

When you return to the classroom, discuss the items they chose and ask students to tell or write why the item is a primary or secondary source.

Definition of Primary Source:

A primary source is a document or physical object which was written or created during the time under study. These sources were present during an experience of time period and offer an inside view of a particular event.

Primary Sources can be objects such as:

Artifacts
Oral histories
Memoirs & Autobiographies
Photographs
Maps
Quotes
Diaries
Letters
Newspaper articles from the time period
Definition of Secondary Source:

A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes, or graphics of primary sources in them.

Secondary Sources can be objects such as:

Scholarly books and journals

Encyclopedias

Textbooks

Magazine articles